

WAS MUCH TOO FAST

**Cold Storage Company's Books
Show an Overdrawn Account.**

FIXING THE RESPONSIBILITY

**No Criminal Intent Is Charged, But
Hert Could Took the Money and
Charged It on the Bank.**

Expert accountants are at work on the books of the Grand Rapids Cold Storage company and a shortage of more than \$2,000 is alleged to have been discovered. It is claimed by a part of the

management of the company that the money has been drawn by Bert Cobb, the bookkeeper, on the other hand it is claimed by Mr. Cobb's friends that while he has borrowed his account all that he has done has been charged against him on the books and was taken with the knowledge and consent of some of the heaviest stockholders in the company.

Mr. Cobb is very ill with typhoid fever, and for several weeks his life has been despaired of, but last night his physician said he was better and would be able to write his will. A. J. Van Dugteren and W. B. Ruiger have been at work on the books which are kept for the company and many irregu-

Did Not Wish to Talk.

Leout John F. Y. Hanks was seen last night and was asked for an explanation of the affair. He refused to talk, though he admitted the truth of the story, but said for the sake of Mr. Cobb's parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Standford H. Cobb, that the story be not printed at present. He also expressed the fear that the knowledge of its publication would have an injurious effect on the state of the mind of the man in charge of the case, and that it was a chance for recovery. He said no one could tell, at present, the full amount of the shortage.

Mr. Cobb's Side of It.

A friend of Mr. Cobb, who has thoroughly investigated the matter, but who desires that his name should not appear in the following statement of "Cobb's side of the matter," says that the man has undoubtedly a right to go to his employer's cash drawer and take money without leaving receipt or evidence that he has done so. However, Bert has placed the evidence

while it was not proper, it shows that his intent was not criminal. There was some excuse, too, why he should draw his account, for he was getting over \$200 a month. Had he been promised \$100 a week from that date, it would have been overdrawn from that date, and part of what he took was his wages and what he was entitled to. The fact is the business of the company was honest, and the money was not stolen from them and there is little doubt, but the principal have taken cash out and have not gotten to leave a slip for it, so that there is no possible way of getting at the exact amount taken or who has taken it. Bert was not a partner in the company, he is a stockholder in the company. He knew that Bert was overdrawing his account and still he had so much confidence in him that he endorsed the account for Bert. Bert was not working for the company, he said, so he told, that Bert is not at all to blame and if it comes to a show down in court he can give evidence that will clear him of any criminal charge.

His Friends Had Money.

Bert has lived beyond his means since he was a boy. He has been well trained with Fred B. Aldrich. He

Withey, Roy Griswold and others, who earn or have plenty of money and spend it freely. His little salary of \$20 a month would not go far in supporting him in the Peninsular club and in the society in which he moved. He has also a wife and a child.

Paid Their Oues.

"There is one transaction of which I wish to speak. The experts found

check which had been drawn and a record made of it. On investigating was found that Bert drew it to pay William Blake's and his own dues to the Peninsular club. I think the estimate of \$2,000 is high on the shortage. I do not believe they can show more than \$500 or \$600, and that is all shown.

Supreme Court.
LANSING, Mich., Jan. 5. The supreme court adjourns in tomorrow morning to hear cases remaining from today's call and will then adjourn until January 11. The court handed down the following opinions: Affirmed—McDuffie vs. La

Shore & Michigan Southern Railway company, Hill vs. Rathbone, Wyckoff & Seams & Benedict vs. Bishop, Auditor General vs. Hill (modified), Lindsay vs. estate of E. J. Nelson, Saxton vs. Pohl, Chicago vs. Patrick.

Reversed—Johnson vs. Hovey, Daile vs. Preferred Masonic Benefit association, Merritt vs. Preferred Masonic Benefit association, Watson vs. Mead.

In O'Neil vs. Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railroad company, judgment sustaining decedent affirmed. In attorney general ex. rel. Spaid vs. Corlies judgment of court entered, with costs.

Says the Plan Is Unlawful.
County Poor Commissioner Lankford says he does not think the newspapermen know where they are at in their talk about turning the city poor master's office over to the Charity organization. "It cannot be done, because, to begin with," said

bankster," according to the law, there is no city postmaster then no citizen would have a right to apply to the superintendent of the ward, who is the law the postmaster unless otherwise provided for. It looks to me like a dangerous precedent to turn the city's funds over to any private corporation. The Charity Organization society may be a right, but if we once begin this

A fight took place yesterday between Albanian tribesmen and Montenegrins. The ports have offered to settle the dispute and to resume work.